



ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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ROBERT SCHURMEIER
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Legislative Commission on Methamphetamine Abuse

FROM: Robert Schurmeier, SBI Director *RS*

RE: 2016 Annual Report on Methamphetamine Laboratories in North Carolina

Date: May 2, 2017

Pursuant to General Statute 90-113.63. "Beginning with the 2011 calendar year, the State Bureau of Investigation shall determine the number of methamphetamine laboratories discovered in the State each calendar year and report its findings to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and to the Legislative Commission on Methamphetamine Abuse by March 1, 2012, for the 2011 calendar year and each March 1 thereafter for the preceding calendar year. The State Bureau of Investigation shall participate in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, assist in coordinating the drug control efforts between local and State law enforcement agencies, and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the electronic record-keeping requirements included in G.S. 90-113.52A and G.S. 90-113.56. The SBI shall include its findings in the report to the Commission required by this section. (2011-240, s. 4.)"

During calendar year 2016, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation responded to three hundred and seventy-six (376) Clandestine Drug Laboratory incidents throughout North Carolina, as compared to the four hundred sixty-seven (467) lab incidents in 2015. Three hundred and seventy-two (372) of these labs were Methamphetamine Laboratories. This is the third year in a row methamphetamine lab responses have decreased. The main reason for this decline is the increasing availability of methamphetamine smuggled into the United States from Mexico. This methamphetamine, often referred to as "ice," is of high quality, is inexpensive, and is increasingly available across North Carolina. Another reason for the decline in domestic methamphetamine production is the increasing availability and use of opiates and opioids such as prescription pain pills, heroin, and fentanyl.

Over the counter Pseudoephedrine products remain the main precursor utilized in all of the Methamphetamine drug laboratories that were seized. Statewide, 73 children were removed from homes where methamphetamine was being manufactured last year, down from 109 in 2015. The

ammonium nitrate, lye, and pseudoephedrine with organic solvents like camping fuel or ether in a plastic bottle, all under high pressure. They present a danger not only to the “cook” making the methamphetamine but also to law enforcement officers and other first responders tasked with responding to and dismantling them.

The SBI is the only agency in North Carolina with a unit of agents specially trained and equipped to dismantle, render safe, take evidentiary samples, and neutralize methamphetamine labs safely. The SBI continues to train other agents and local law enforcement officers throughout the state in identifying meth labs and to assist the Clandestine Laboratory Response Unit agents in the safe dismantling and disposal of meth labs on top of their full-time assignments. SBI Clandestine Laboratory Response Unit agents also provide for the safe transportation and disposal of methamphetamine lab waste throughout the state, at no cost to local law enforcement agencies.

Attachments: 2016 State Map of Meth Lab Incidents

Prepared by: Derek T. Duke

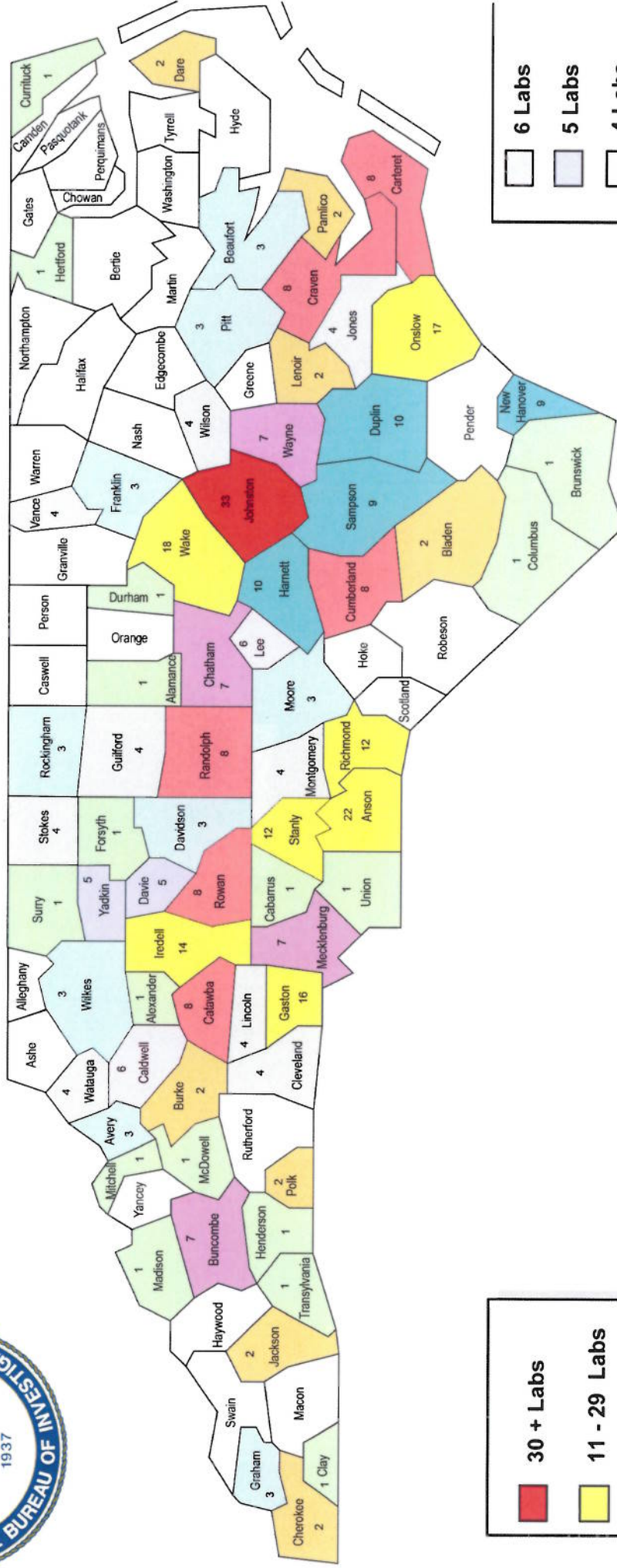
Special Agent in Charge

North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation



Total: 376

(As of December 31, 2016)



North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation